

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A programmable active load is adapted for use with differential signals. The differential active load includes a diode quad having four terminals. A first  
5 programmable current source is connected to the first node and a second programmable current source is connected to the second node. The third and fourth nodes are respectively adapted to receive first and second differential signals of a differential pair of signals. The differential active load sources current to the more negative of the first and second differential signals, and sinks current from the more positive of the first and  
10 second differential signals.